

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 STR-01 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

COA-01 AGR-05 OES-03 FEA-01 INT-05 CIEP-01 /087 W

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R 051450Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1636

AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ETRD, EFIS, PO, NO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE-NORWEGIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1. SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER OF ECONOMY CURRENTLY IN OSLO FOR TALKS ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRADE, WHILE NORWEGIAN EXPERTS ARE IN LISBON EXPLORING POSSIBLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO FISHING INDUSTRY. NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY HAS ESTABLISHED INVESTMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR PORTUGAL. THIS KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS VALUABLE FROM BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POINTS OF VIEW AND MERITS U.S. ENCOURAGEMENT. WIDE PLAY GIVEN IT BY NEWSPAPERS, FOR EXAMPLE, HELPS OFFSET EXTENSIVE COVERAGE GIVEN BY LEFTIST PRESS TO EASTERN EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF ECONOMY RUI VILAR LEFT FEBRUARY 3 WITH TEAM OF 10 TECHNICIANS FOR OSLO TO HOLD TALKS WITH  
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NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRADE.

ON SAME DAY 5-MAN NORWEGIAN MISSION ARRIVED IN LISBON TO STUDY PROBLEMS OF PORTUGUESE FISHING INDUSTRY, WITH VIEW TO PROVIDING EXPERTS TO ADVISE ON RESTRUCTURING AND RATIONALIZATION.

3. RUI VILAR TOOK DRAFT OF AGRICULTURAL ACCORD WHICH WOULD FACILITATE PORTUGUESE EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY WINE, BEYOND EXISTING EFTA ARRANGEMENTS. IN TURN, PORTUGUESE HOPE TO IMPORT NORWEGIAN COD FOR FINAL PROCESSING HERE. ALSO ON AGENDA ARE PROVISION OF NORWEGIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FORESTRY, CONTROL OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURES, AND TAXATION, AS WELL AS RESOLUTION OF CERTAIN PROBLEMS BLOCKING NORWEGIAN TOURISTS FROM PORTUGAL.

4. IN FIELD OF PETROLEUM, PORTUGUESE ARE LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE IN EXPLORATION AND DRILLING, AS WELL AS FOR LEGISLATION CONTROLLING OPERATIONS OF OIL COMPANIES. THEY ALSO HOPE TO FIND MARKET IN NORTH SEA FIELD FOR PORTUGUESE EQUIPMENT.

5. ACCORDING FEBRUARY 5 MORNING PRESS, RUI VILAR AND NORWEGIAN FINANCE MINISTER PER KLEPPE ON FEBRUARY 4 SIGNED AGREEMENT SETTING UP A JOINT LUSO-NORWEGIAN COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. PRESS ALSO CLAIMS THAT NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS "CONFIRMED" ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHEME OF GUARANTEES FOR NORWEGIAN INVESTMENTS IN PORTUGAL, AND CALLS IT A GESTURE OF HIGH POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES U.S. SHOULD ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE TRADE AND ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AND PORTUGAL. EMBASSY OSLO, FOR EXAMPLE, MAY FIND OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE U.S. SATISFACTION WITH ABOVE-REPORTED DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH HAVE FAVORABLE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES. WIDE PRESS PLAY OF NORWEGIAN INITIATIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, HELPS OFFSET EXTENSIVE COVERAGE GIVEN BY LEFTIST PRESS TO EASTERN EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LISBON00683  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750042-0811  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PORTUGUESE-NORWEIGIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
**TAGS:** EAID, ETRD, EFIS, PO, NO  
**To:** STATE OSLO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006